

Press-Herald

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For Leo F. X. Salisbury

For several years we have watched with admiration the efforts of Leo F. X. Salisbury to improve the community in which he and his family live and in which he is active as an independent businessman. Frankly, we have been impressed. Mr. Salisbury has demonstrated an unbounding enthusiasm for the many projects in which he has an interest. He is a vigorous businessman, served with distinction as a member of the city's Planning Commission, and was singularly responsible for the formation of a merchants sign committee to fight city-sponsored proposals to impose drastic restrictions on business signs in Torrance. In this latter battle, incidentally, Mr. Salisbury appears to be near victory as the City Council committee named to study the problem has shown a general agreement with his proposals and in some cases appear to take a more liberal approach to sign restrictions. The Press-Herald is convinced that Mr. Salisbury would make a competent city councilman and that he has energy and talents which the city could use to its advantage. The Press-Herald recommends that Leo F. X. Salisbury be elected to the City Council on April 9.

Democracy Worth Saving?

Perhaps many of our nation's problems center around the fact that we are trying to peddle a product—democracy—to the far reaches of the world, when as a matter of fact we haven't yet learned to live with it ourselves. Our founding fathers knew that it would be difficult for their new nation to maintain such a form of government. They warned of the pitfalls at the time, but they believed the experiment worthy of the risk. We have been wrestling with it ever since, with varying degrees of success. We—the mightiest, the wealthiest, the best educated nation in the world—still seem to feel a bit wary of our chances of success, with no real dedication of national purpose. Yet, we insist that every other country on the globe adopt our form of government, or else.

Perhaps Alexander Hamilton was more right than we are willing to admit. Perhaps government, in truth, is too complicated a process to be entrusted to the common man. When we see the turmoil about us it would seem that we are doing our best to prove him right. Most of us lack the wisdom to run our own households. Yet we are asked to make decisions in the name of democracy, which may effect man's ability to continue life on this planet.

Fortunately, when life was less complicated, we were able to muddle through, using trial and error as our modus operandi. We were content in telling ourselves that while democracy was a highly inefficient way to run a government, it was still better than any other method, ever devised.

My fear is that somewhere along the line we American people became too busy to keep informed on issues, too fat and self-satisfied. We began voting for people to represent us who are unqualified to make sound decisions based on the collective well-being of our cities, counties, states and the nation. While in every other sector of our lives we have turned toward modern techniques and innovations, government has not kept pace with the change. Only rarely do we recruit and elect the best among us to provide us with our government leadership. Too often we listen to the voice which promises the most to add to our comforts and at the least inconvenience and cost to us. Too often are we forced to go to the polls and cast our vote for the best of a bad lot.

Any business that operated on the same basis as that which we use to run this democracy of ours wouldn't last long. And yet government is the biggest business in our nation today.

I, for one, never want us to turn our backs on this noble experiment. It can be made to work, even though it won't be easy. We may have to recruit leaders. We may have to turn a lot of political hacks out to pasture. We may have to abandon our dreams of pie-in-the-sky. We may have to work harder to understand candidates before making our decisions.

We, the fattest and politically laziest country of them all, may have to do a lot of things that will stir us from our lethargy. But don't you agree that retaining our freedom through democracy is worth what ever effort it requires?

I do!—J. Walker Owens, executive vice president, Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce.

Opinions of Others

Try as we may we cannot reconcile the fact that the federal government is slyly sneaking into our sacred churches. A group of church leaders stated that federal grants to church schools were permissible although they despise federal "aid." You tell us the difference between a "grant" and "aid" other than the spelling.—Richmond (Va.) *Herrin Herald*.

Federal government exchange figures reveal the fact that Mississippi got from the federal government more than \$3.50 for every \$1 in federal taxes paid in fiscal 1967—\$1.4 billion for the 82 counties against \$400 million paid in taxes. This, of course, is communism in the raw. . . . "Take from each according to his ability; give to each according to his need." As one of the "neediest" of the states we profit handsomely, to our shame be it said.—Summit (Miss.) *Sun*.

That's Show Biz, Mac, Baby!



HERB CAEN SAYS:

Admiral Likes Shipboard Run-Around; Isn't Lost

Retired Admiral T. B. Wilson of Sonoma, aboard Matson's Monterey, ran 14 laps around the deck every morning, the equivalent of his usual two-mile run. It was on Lap No. 12 one morn that a six-yr.-old girl stopped him to inquire anxiously: "Mister, are you lost?" . . . Dr. Jules Masserman, Prof. of Psychiatry at Northwestern: "The majority of hippies will grow up into good staunch Republicans and rejoin our imperfect society." Rendered thus by good staunch Republicans? . . . I should apologize to California's San Mateo County for having referred to it occasionally as Orange County North. The true OCN would seem to be Butte, where bonds for a new jr. college were defeated by ads that asked such enlightened questions as "Do you really want a new college around here? Would it bring all kind of undesirable to Butte County in the guise of professors?" The phrasing of that last question is truly a masterpiece of creeping creepiness.

Go-Go Joe Alioto has a wicked big-city kind of humor. When he was drawing up a committee for a city charter revision, he showed the list of names to one of his braintrusters, who hummed: "Hmmm, I think you have too many Jewish names on this list." "I don't care about that," snapped the Mayor. Replied the adviser: "I know YOU don't, but some people will." . . . Later that day, Alioto phoned the braintruster: "After thinking it over, may be you're right. I added a Report from Our Man in San Francisco distinguished Chinese to the list." "Fine," said the aide, "what's his name?" . . . "Jue," chuckled the Mayor. "Merrill Jue." . . . And in Washington recently our Mayor got off Another Good One. He met with the California Congressional contingent in a room that was so crowded and noisy that at one point Congr. Phil Burton complained: "Gad, I can't even hear myself talk." "Don't worry, Phil," cat-grinned the Mayor, "you're not missing a thing."

YOUR LAWMAKERS

- U.S. SENATORS
Thomas H. Kuchel (R), 315 Old Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20240, or 300 N. Spring St., Los Angeles, 90012, phone 688-2000.
George Murphy (R), 452 Old Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20240, or 300 N. Los Angeles St., Los Angeles, 90012, phone 688-4637.
- CONGRESSMEN
17th District — Cecil R. King (D), 2309 Rayburn Building, Washington, D. C., 20240, or Pacific Trade Center, San Pedro, phone 833-5777.
28th District — Alphonzo Bell (R), 1504 Longworth Building, Washington, D. C., 20240, or 1248 Fifth Street, Santa Monica, 90401, phone 478-0111.
- STATE SENATORS
25th District — Robert S. Stevens (R), 1245 Glendon Ave., Los Angeles, 90024, or telephone 272-4647.
31st District — James Q. Wedworth, (D), 8404 S. Crenshaw Blvd., Inglewood, phone 788-0604.
32nd District — Ralph C. Dills (D), 504 Pacific Trade Center, San Pedro.
- ASSEMBLYMEN
46th District — Robert G. Beverly (R), 1611 S. Pacific Coast Hwy., Redondo Beach, 90277, telephone 378-8522.
67th District — L. E. Townsend (D), 18436 Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance, 90504, phone 370-7421.
68th District — Vincent Thomas (D), Pacific Trade Center, San Pedro, 833-2881. (Messages for state officers may be addressed to them at the State Capitol Building, Sacramento, Calif. 95814.)

SACRAMENTO SCENE

Legislators Toying With Idea of Hiking Pay Again

By ERWIN S. CAPPS
Capitol News Service
SACRAMENTO — Despite an ever-increasing staff of consultants and public relations people, the state legislature still is having problems with its image and, once again, the assembly has had a closed session to discuss it.

About this time of the year, there are general complaints that such things are not moving as they should be in the legislative halls. Some of the complaints go to the point that, except for the assembly last week, the lawmakers have been on about a three-day week schedule — they adjourn on Thursday noon and don't return until about noon on Monday.

Committee attendance is poor on Thursday afternoons and Monday mornings and the image problem is whether this is what the people thought they would get when they boosted the \$6,000 to \$16,000 in 1966.

In fact, as far as the salary goes, there are some who wonder whether the present image would warrant another \$1,600 a year in pay for the legislators as is envisioned in a bill by a 21-year veteran who is retiring this year.

Assemblyman Edward E. Elliott, D-Los Angeles, who first was elected to the assembly in 1947 and has announced plans not to seek re-election, has had a bill prepared providing for the 10 per cent pay increase. The bill is not introduced as yet and, if introduced and approved, would not take effect until 1971.

But Assembly Speaker Jesse M. Unruh, D-Inglewood, who called the rare

closed-door session of all the members on Tuesday, pointed out that, if the pay raise bill is not acted upon this year, it will be a long wait until another bill can be passed. Any bill, of course, would have a delayed effective date — for practical purposes, until the year after.

Review of Major News On the Sacramento Scene

ter the two-year term for which almost all of the assemblymen now are seeking re-election.

Prop. 1-a, approved by the voters in 1966, put the legislature on annual sessions and permitted the members to fix their own salaries. Tied in with the amendment to the constitution was a bill which set a salary at \$16,000 beginning in 1967. Most drew about \$22,000 in 1967, including salary and expenses.

The constitutional amendment also would give the legislature authority to increase its salary at the rate of 5 per cent per year. Most lawmakers were so happy to get the raise to \$16,000, it took them a while before they thought about raising the ante any higher but now the talk is circulating.

On the matter of the work of the session, there appears no easy answer. Some of the public judges the legislature on the time they spend in actual session on the assembly or senate floor. But early in the year, there are few important bills that far along in the legislative process.

"One of the problems is getting the individual authors to move their bills," Unruh said. "The commit-

tees by and large are doing their work but they can't act on the bills until the authors move them."

The slowness in moving legislation often is not associated with lack of enthusiasm or initiative but is tied in more closely with strategy. It takes time — sometimes weeks — to line up support for a bill. And it's easy for an author to feel that his bill would have a better chance if he waited another couple of weeks before bringing it to a vote in the committee.

There's also the problem of the time the members must spend in their district offices, taking care of constituent problems. In this year, of course, they have to spend considerable time in making sure they get elected again.

Several assemblymen, contacted after the full-assembly caucus, said they see little time in spending a lot of time in session if there are only a few bills to consider. They indicate the feeling there should be a full four days in Sacramento—meaning full attendance at committees on Thursday afternoons. This would leave the members the time to spend Fridays in their district office to answer the mail, talk to constituents, and mend or build political fences.

With this session seemingly getting off to a slower start than usual, and with primary and general elections, plus party conventions coming up later in the year, the prospects for a monumental legislative logjam at whatever time the adjournment of the session for the year is called, seems to be brighter.

FROM THE MAILBOX

Distaste for Modern Art Not Result of Ignorance

Editor, Press-Herald:

I take exception to your "Let's Go" column this week (March 17) in which Larry Macaray says he has heard his resentment to some of the present day modernistic art.

Many of our instructors refuse to recognize that

the phrase hundreds of times — "I don't know anything about art, but I know what I like" is not based on the speaker's ignorance but there are still a lot of buyers that like this so-called "sickening, sweet type of realistic art," so their only choice is to buy a print when they could well afford to buy an oil painting.

It is not necessarily true that an artist has to be a Frenchman or foreigner to be a good painter, and neither is it true that if you can understand it, it is not good art.

We are living in an age where a boy has to look like a girl to be popular, and a girl has to look like a boy (Twiggy) to become famous, but that, too, will pass.

HAROLD STRAND

To the Editor:
On behalf of the Publicity Committee of the South Bay Community Concert Association, I would like to thank you for the generous publicity we received in your paper this past season. We received several calls as a result of it and heard many complimentary remarks about the above notices. Notices of the artist also serve as good reminders of the coming concerts for our members.

It has been a pleasure dealing with you. We appreciate your graciousness and careful service.

Sincerely,
MRS. MICHAEL PATEN
Torrance Publicity
Chairman

Quotes

Those suggesting a federal riot squad to speed to any state afflicted with racial strife apparently overlook both American tradition and these federal statutes, and would void years of carefully established guidelines. — U. S. Senator Thomas H. Kuchel.

The poll appears to establish the conclusion that rapid transit should be for the other fellow to use and this conclusion is even more decisive in the case of who shall pay for rapid transit construction and operation. — Assemblyman James A. Hayes, Long Beach.

The use of two-way mirrors in motel and hotel rooms is obviously indefensible and an intolerable abuse of the individual's right to privacy. Those who

engage in this kind of snooping should be hit by the law and hit hard. — Assemblyman John F. Dunlap, Napa.

Taxpayers of California want to provide essential medical services for needy fellow-citizens, and they have no quarrel with public payment of reasonable and customary costs which those services require. But they will not continue to endorse blank checks to unethical doctors and health care opportunists who look upon the Medi-Cal programs as a limitless Horn of Plenty. — Senator Howard Way, Exeter.

I regret to leave this war-torn land before the battle is over and before peace is restored. — General William C. Westmoreland on being named Army Chief of Staff.

Morning Report:

The latest poop from the United Nations building on the East River in New York City is that Hanoi really wants to negotiate right now because they are winning the war. And we don't want to because we are losing. The high-level thinking has it that each side will sit down to the conference table only when it is ahead in the fighting.

This is very serious news indeed. Because it means that as soon as Hanoi drops behind, they won't be willing to talk any more but then we will. Clearly this means a perpetual see-saw situation. The loser won't negotiate and the winner will.

If all this is true, there is only one dim hope in sight. What we need is a full-fledged, no nonsense impasse to end the impasse.

Abe Mellinkoff

